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C.I.A. AIDE DEPLORES DATA-RELEASE LAW

Says Freedom of Information Act Scares off Valuable Sources

WASHINGTON, April 5 (AP) — The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence testified today that his agency was losing valuable information because its domestic and foreign sources feared that their identities would be exposed under the Freedom of Information Act.

"The head of a large American company and former Cabinet member recently told me he thought any company was out of its mind to cooperate with the C.I.A. as long as the provisions of the F.O.I.A. apply to it," the official, Frank C. Carlucci, said.

Mr. Carlucci did not identify the former Cabinet member in testimony before the House Intelligence Committee's legislation subcommittee.

The Freedom of Information Act provides for public access to Government information on demand, but permits agencies to withhold certain sensitive material in specified categories. Decisions to withhold information can be appealed to Federal courts.

Requests From Foreigners

Mr. Carlucci said that the Central Intelligence Agency received many requests from foreigners, "possibly representatives of hostile intelligence services."

The C.I.A. has proposed an amendment to the law under which certain materials, such as those dealing with clandestine activities abroad and relations with foreign governments, would not have to be reviewed unless they contained information about the person making the request.

"Recently, the chief of a major foreign intelligence service sat in my office and flatly stated that he could not fully cooperate as long as C.I.A. is subject to the act," Mr. Carlucci testified.

"This representative noted, correctly, that even information denied under the exemptions was subject to later review and possible release by a U.S. court," he said. "While this has fortunately not yet happened, I was not in a position to guarantee that it will not."